



Department of Energy
Chicago Operations Office
9800 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

OCT 15 1999

Mr. Robert Schillerstrom, Chairman
DuPage County Board
421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Mr. Schillerstrom:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you on July 28 to discuss our position on the north-south highway proposed by DuPage County along the eastern border of the Department of Energy's Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab).

As Dr. Witherell and I explained at the meeting, we are aware of the complex transportation problems faced by DuPage County and wish to be as helpful as we can. Our first priority, however, must be assuring that the Department of Energy's mission continues to be carried out at Fermilab, now and into the future.

As we explained at our meeting, a heightened recognition of the impact on accelerator operations of a highway built along Fermilab's eastern boundary has led us to conclude that such a highway would adversely affect Fermilab's future as a national high-energy physics laboratory. This conclusion is based, in part, on a growing recognition that:

- Advanced accelerator concepts are likely to be very sensitive -- more sensitive than today's facilities -- to ground motion and other vibration;
- The ability to construct such new accelerator facilities on the site will be increasingly critical to Fermilab's continuing existence as a national physics research laboratory as new machines come on line and shift the focus of international high energy physics to Europe; and
- Because of the scale, cost and technological complexity of such new accelerators, we cannot predict the timetable for their construction, nor, with any certainty, when key decisions about construction or timing might be made.



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For these reasons, DOE and Fermilab would prefer that no road be built through the Laboratory site. However, should the community decide that a north-south road is necessary, the route with the least impact on Fermilab's future scientific program would be a widening of Kirk Road on Fermilab's western border. DOE would be unlikely to grant access for any other route at any time within the foreseeable future. To do so would potentially foreclose our ability to develop future accelerators and assure that Fermilab remains a leader in high energy physics. Because of the expense of conducting the required environmental and engineering studies associated with any proposed road, we want to make sure that DuPage County clearly understands our position before you undertake such studies.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you. We look forward to working with you as DOE/Fermilab and DuPage County continue to plan for a long and healthy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert L. San Martin", with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Robert L. San Martin
Manager

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Witherell", with a cursive style.

Michael S. Witherell
Director
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory